

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a system where data is transmitted during a handoff, the handoff having at least two legs each being between a terminal and one of at least two sets of communication equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

responsive to a deterioration in at least one of the characteristics of a communication link that is part of at least one of the legs, changing the maximum allowed burst duration;~~The method of claim 5,~~

~~wherein the transmitting step comprises:~~

establishing a secondary channel over just one leg responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being at least as large as a threshold burst duration; and

transmitting the data burst over the secondary channel.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being smaller than the threshold burst duration transmitting the data burst over the primary channel.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~6, wherein:  
each set of communication equipment includes a transmitter; and  
the communication link is a forward link.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are obtained from a pilot strength measurement message.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of at least one pilot signal, each of the sets of the communication equipment transmitting one of the at least one pilot signals.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the characteristics of the at least one pilot signal comprise whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the characteristics of at least one pilot signal comprise a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on at least one of the following characteristics:

whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set;

a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements;

the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets communication equipment relative to a strength of a pilot signal of a non-anchor set of the sets of communication equipment;

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment; and

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a second predetermined number of measurements.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4~~6~~, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of a signal on a secondary channel.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a system where a burst of data is transmitted during a handoff, the handoff having at least two legs each being between a terminal and one of at least two sets of communication equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first burst of data over just one of the legs using a first plurality of burst parameters;

responsive to a deterioration in at least one of the characteristics of a communication link that is part of at least one of the legs, selecting a second plurality of burst parameters where the maximum allowed burst duration of the second plurality is different from the first plurality of burst parameters;

~~The method of claim 19, wherein the step of transmitting a second burst of data comprises:~~

establishing a secondary channel over just one leg responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being at least as large as a threshold burst duration; and

transmitting the data burst over the secondary channel.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being smaller than the threshold burst duration transmitting the data burst over the primary channel.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~20, wherein:  
each set of communication equipment includes a transmitter; and  
the communication link is a forward link.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20~~45~~, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are obtained from a pilot strength measurement message.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20~~45~~, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of at least one pilot signal, each of the sets of the communication equipment transmitting one of the at least one pilot signals.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the characteristics of the at least one pilot signal comprise whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the characteristics of at least one pilot signal comprise a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2045, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on at least one of the following characteristics:

whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set;

a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements;

the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets communication equipment relative to a strength of a pilot signal of a non-anchor set of the sets of communication equipment;

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment; and

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a second predetermined number of measurements.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2045, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of a signal on a secondary channel.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a system where a burst of data is transmitted during a handoff, the handoff having at least two legs each

being between a terminal and one of at least two sets of communication equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a maximum allowed burst duration as a function of the characteristics of a communication link that is part of at least one of the legs;

~~The method of claim 29, wherein the transmitting step comprises:~~

establishing a secondary channel over just one leg responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being at least as large as a threshold burst duration; and

transmitting the data burst over the secondary channel.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of responsive to the maximum allowed burst duration being smaller than the threshold burst duration transmitting the data burst over the primary channel.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3329, wherein:  
each set of communication equipment includes a transmitter; and  
the communication link is a forward link.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3329, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are obtained from a pilot strength measurement message.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3329, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of at least one pilot signal, each of the sets of the communication equipment transmitting one of the at least one pilot signals.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the characteristics of the at least one pilot signal comprise whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the characteristics of at least one pilot signal comprise a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3329, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on at least one of the following characteristics:

whether an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment remains as the anchor set;

a strength of a pilot signal of an anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a first predetermined number of measurements;

the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets communication equipment relative to a strength of a pilot signal of a non-anchor set of the sets of communication equipment;

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment; and

the rate of change of the strength of the pilot signal of the anchor set of the sets of communication equipment for a second predetermined number of measurements

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3329, wherein the characteristics of the communication link are based on characteristics of a signal on a secondary channel.